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Sioux reservations. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an estimate from the Secretary of the Interior for expenses of surveying the Sioux reservations

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SIOUX RESERVATIONS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior for expenses of surveying
the Sioux reservations.*

MARCH 19, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 17, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 12th instant, forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to appropriations necessary for surveys, etc., on Sioux reservations.

Respectfully, yours,

W. WINDOM,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1890.

SIR: The eighth section of the act approved March 2, 1889, "To divide a portion of the reservation of the Sioux nation of Indians in Dakota into separate reservations and to secure the relinquishment of the Indian title to the remainder, and for other purposes" (25 Stats., 888), authorizes and requires the President,

Whenever in his opinion any reservation of such Indians, or any part thereof, is advantageous for agricultural or grazing purposes, and the progress in civilization of the Indians receiving rations on either or any of said reservations shall be such as to encourage the belief that an allotment in severalty to such Indians, or any of them, would be for the best interest of said Indians, to cause said reservation, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be surveyed or re-surveyed, and to allot the lands in said reservation in severalty to the Indians located thereon.

The tenth section requires that the allotments provided for in the act shall be made by special agents appointed by the President for such purpose.

No provision is made in the act or otherwise for the payment of the expenses of the surveys or of making allotments.

I am already in receipt of letters from two of the influential Indians of the Pine Ridge Agency, in which they state that a considerable number of their people are desirous of taking allotments at an early date, and request that their lands be surveyed during the coming summer.

I deem it important that the Sioux Indians should be permitted to select their lands in severalty as soon as they indicate a willingness to do so, and to this end I am of the opinion that funds should be available to make the necessary surveys. Such surveys will have to be made sooner or later, and should, I think, be commenced during the present year.

Funds should also be provided for the payment of special agents if any should be needed during the next fiscal year.

I have accordingly prepared the draught of an item providing for an appropriation of \$100,000 for surveys and re-surveys, to be re-imbursed proportionately out of the proceeds of any lands that may hereafter be acquired from these Indians.

Also an item appropriating the sum of \$10,000 for the pay and expenses of special agents.

I have the honor to recommend that these items be submitted to Congress, with the request that they be incorporated in the bill embodying the recommendations of the Sioux Commission, transmitted to the Senate by the President, February 10, 1890 (Cong. Record, page 1149).

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 14, 1890.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, with the request that the items herein estimated be incorporated in the bill embodying the recommendations of the Sioux Commission, transmitted to the Senate by the President, February 10, 1890.

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

Items of appropriations recommended to be added to

A BILL to enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry out in part the provisions of an act to divide a portion of the reservation of the Sioux Nation of Indians in Dakota into separate reservations, and to secure the relinquishment of the Indian title to the remainder, and for other purposes, approved March 2, 1889, and making appropriations for the same, and for other purposes.

To enable the President to cause the several reservations of said Sioux Indians to be surveyed or re-surveyed, under the provisions of section eight of said act of March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, one hundred thousand dollars, the same to be re-imbursed to the United States out of the proceeds of the sales of such lands as may hereafter be acquired from the Indians occupying the diminished reservations on which the surveys and re-surveys may be made.

For pay and expenses of the special agents provided for in section ten of said act of March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, ten thousand dollars.